

HOW TO COLLECT STYLOPIDAE.*

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It is well known to entomologists that many genera of wasps, bees and insects of other orders, are at times affected with parasites which live in their abdominal cavities. In the genera *Xenos* and *Stylops*, the adult female is larvaform and never leaves the body of the host, but the male when ready to pupate projects the end of the pupa case outwards, between the segments, where it can easily be seen protruding. By examining wasps and bees when they frequent flowers, it can readily be observed as to whether or not they are parasitized. The female *Xenos* can be distinguished from the male by the broad flat projecting head. The male pupa case is rounder and separates the segments to a greater extent. When a wasp is found with male pupa, it may be secured and brought home alive. Confine it in a jelly tumbler with a cheese cloth cover over the top; in the bottom of the glass there should be placed a round bit of blotting paper and a piece of screen wire, raised up from the bottom. This is necessary because the instant the *Xenos* hatches the wasp rushes after it, in an endeavor to catch, kill and bite it to pieces, an example of an interesting instinct. The movements of the *Xenos* are so rapid, that the wasp can not catch it until it falls exhausted in the bottom of the glass. By having the false bottom of wire, the *Xenos* falls through, the wasp not being able to follow, and the specimen can thus be secured. The wasp while confined in the glass must be fed. This may be done with jelly and water, putting it on the cheese cloth cover in one small spot, with a camel's hair brush. Many fine specimens have been hatched by the writer in this way, from five genera of wasps, several of which are new host wasps, and the facts and species obtained are entirely new to science. There are yet some interesting problems in the life history of these curious insects that are unknown. In looking through some of the largest and finest collections of insects recently at Washington and New York, only a few poor specimens in this family were found while in some otherwise valuable collections they are not even represented. In view of a monograph of these insects in course of preparation by W. D. Pierce, the publication of which will occur soon, material from all parts of the country is very much desired.

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